



**First State Montessori Academy, Inc.  
920 N. French Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** March 28, 2019

**Call to order:** 6:13 pm

**Adjournment:** 8:19 pm

**Location:** First State Montessori Academy Upper School

**Present for Public Session:** Angela Angeny, Jed Donahue, Courtney Fox, Courtney Loughney, Natalie Marchiani, Aubria Nance, Meghan Newberry, Kyara Panula-Beck, Mike Reilly\*, Janine Salomone, Sara Stabb

*\*Mike Reilly arrived at 6:16 pm.*

**Regrets:** Zeke Allinson, Chanda Gilmore, Sarah Nagle

### **Public Comment**

No guests or public comment recorded.

Board Chair acknowledged and congratulated Janine Salomone on her investiture as a Commissioner of Superior Court of the State of Delaware on Friday, March 29, 2019.

### **Approval of the February 28, 2019 public board minutes**

Motion to approve made by J. Donahue. Second by J. Salomone. No objections or abstentions.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Presentation of monthly narrative and web report completed by Board Chair. We are 2/3 of the way through the fiscal year.

It was noted that Karen Thorpe will be joining the Board during Executive Session. She is FSMA's business manager. She will be speaking to any questions we have around the five year projections, as well as other executive sessions items.

The five-year budget was passed out to the Board Members to review. M. Reilly asked for assumptions on enrollment.

Discussion ensued regarding the five-year budget. This is not a voting item but was provided for the edification of the Board Members.

Motion to approve the monthly narrative by M. Reilly. 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Salomone. No objections or abstentions.

## Development Committee Report

C. Loughney shared that we have reached almost \$30,000 in sponsorships. Please plan to be present for the 6:15 pm event. Every board member should be working at the event as well. Please use the sign up genius. C. Loughney will recirculate the signup sheet.

Board Chair thanked everyone who has been involved to bring this celebration together. We are looking forward to Saturday's event!

## Head of School Report

The school calendar for the upcoming year was discussed. HOS explained the calendar was reviewed in depth to make sure the decisions that were made were best for the children. It is important to note that two of the dates in October are state wide events that we did not select chose and it is important for our teachers to be in both communities to talk to other Montessori and Charter School teachers.

Motion to approve the calendar by J. Donahue. 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Nance. No objections. No abstentions.

The Board then reviewed the Energy Report completed by Practical Energy Solutions with staff and students. PES is coming on Wednesday to provide their full recommendations (April 3) at 1 pm. Board Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### *School wide items to note:*

- Last week, over 40 staff members/teachers attended the American Montessori conference. It was an incredible day in DC.
  - S. Stabb shared that it was inspiring to see all of the ideas being shared. She feels that she can recreate some of the lessons learned and/or was reminded she may have tools in her classroom that she can begin using to enhance the classroom experience. It was a positive experience to bond and connect with teachers. The Keynote speaker provided great insight regarding emotional intelligence. She also attended a workshop about building the Montessori NEST (Nooks, Equipment, Spirits and Trimmings). This was a concept that could be easily implemented. Overall the conference brought you back "home" and reminds you where you came from.
  - N. Marchiani shared that she has been going to the conferences for over 20 years. They are a great remind and inspiring. The Keynote speaker was great and shared a lot about brain research. She ws able to connect with many people in the Montessori community. Only request would be able to attend more than one day.

HOS attended a middle school programs on creating a gender neutral classroom. The focus was making sure that we are caretakers of everyone. Something we will begin working on immediately are gender neutral bathrooms on every floor. We are going to start with the middle school renovations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. It was very Interesting to hear the background and understand what barriers schools are facing and kids are facing.

Additionally, this week has been FSMA's first week of inclusion, led by students. Each day involved an inclusive activity. All of the students have been supported and excited by this initiative.

Board Chair thanked HOS for sharing updates and noted that he has personally heard stories from his daughter and knows all of our parents are hearing great feedback. A Nance said echoed these sentiments as well!

Motion to move to Exec Session by J. Salomone. 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Angeny. 6:57 pm moved into Executive Session.

Returned from Executive Sessions at 8:19. Motion to adjourn by A. Nance. 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Angeny.